

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
(Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2014. 06. 02

Affiliation/Position	University Malaysia Sabah/ Graduate student
Name	Nurul Ain Mohd Sharif

1. Country/location of visit
Yakushima Island, Japan

2. Research project
Study the behaviours and social interactions among wild deer

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016.05.21-2016.05.27 (7 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Naoki Agetsuma (Fsc, Hokkaido University), Yoshimi Agetsuma-Yanagihara (Waku-Doki Planning) and Mari Nishikawa

5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)

Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.

I was assigned in deer group during the field course in Yakushima Island. Our main objective for this field work was to study the behaviours and social interactions among wild deer. Aside from this, we also collected the fecal from the deer and did experiment on measuring rate of successful sequencing mitochondrial DNA from fecal samples under various conditions where we need to observe the physical condition of fecal in exposed and natural environment during this field work in Yakushima. More objectives will be achieved during the genome course later.



Figure 1: Sika deer observation in Yakushima Island

Our samplings were conducted from 22nd -25th of May 2016 in western part of Yakushima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture. Our group consists of six students and three lecturers. In each sampling days, our group was divided into smaller group which consist of two people and a lecturer. We need to change our partner every day, so that everyone got chance to work with different person. It was a good idea because we became closer with everyone in our group. In each team, there was an observer whom records the behaviours of sika deer and a focal collector. In field, deer team needs to

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be prepared that we can get lost in the forest during the observation. So that, we carried so many stuffs (GPS, whistles, radio-transmitter). Field work can be tough where we need to went through mountainous areas to observe the sika deer. But luckily, no incidents happen to our team during this field work.



Figure 2: Field work with Nomoto-san and Nishikawa-san

At 26th of May 2016, we presented our finding from this field work in front of other participants and lecturers. It took our night sleep to prepare for this presentation but I was happy that everyone showed their commitment till the end. From our result, we found that more adult deer spend more time feeding while young deer spend more time for rumination. Meanwhile for social interaction between deer, we found that females deer was more sociable compared to males. On our last in Yakushima, we went to Shiratani-Unsuikyo to see the cedar tree and waterfalls in the morning before leaving the Yakushima.



Figure 3: Presentation preparation

This course taught me new things, how to study the behaviour of animals in wild. I never learned about this before. It was good and useful for me. Besides that, I was more appreciating the value of nature after this course I got to know new people and learn few Japanese words from them. I enjoyed every moment in Yakushima. I am really appreciated for this opportunity. I would like to thanks all lecturers, staffs and participants for this valuable experience.

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6. Others